AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing a computer network, comprising the steps of:

assigning to at least one collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides;

receiving, in at least one management computer, information from the at least one collection computer that includes the management domain identifier and a trust flag to indicate a binary setting ~~relating to the management domain identifier~~;

deciding whether the at least one management computer should resolve ~~the management domain identifier on behalf of~~ a hostname being reported by the at least one collection computer based on the binary setting of the trust flag; and

maintaining within the at least one management computer a database of the information accessed using the management domain identifier.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning comprises the step of:

establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain includes at least one collection computer.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the management domain identifier is a domain name of the management domain.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is network topology information.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving comprises the steps of:

receiving first information from a first collection computer, wherein the first information includes a first network address and a first management domain identifier;

receiving second information from a second collection computer, wherein the second information includes a second network address and a second management domain identifier, wherein the second network address is identical to the first network address;

comparing the second network address to the first network address using the second management domain identifier and the first management domain identifier;

assigning a network element associated with the second network address as a primary network element when the second network address belongs to a different management domain than the first network address; and

assigning the network element associated with the second network address as a secondary network element when the second network address belongs to a same management domain as the first network address.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of maintaining comprises the step of:

using management domain identifiers to consolidate network topology information from collection computers having identical network addresses and belonging to different management domains.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the step of:

managing, by each collection computer, at least one network object; and

resolving, by each collection computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in the information received at the at least one management computer.

8.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing a computer network, comprising:

a plurality of collection computers, wherein each collection computer is assigned a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides;

at least one management computer for receiving information, from the plurality of collection computers, that includes the management domain identifier and a trust flag to indicate a binary setting ~~relating to the management domain identifier~~, the at least one management computer being capable of deciding whether to resolve ~~the management domain identifier on behalf of~~ a hostname in the information being reported by the collection computers based on the binary setting of the trust flag; and

at least one computer database for maintaining within the at least one

management computer information accessed using the management domain

identifier.